

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

/148 W

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R 120532Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3858

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, AS, UR, UN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN OFFER OF 200 ARMY TROOPS FOR DUTY IN CYPRUS

1. AUSTRALIAN PRESS AUG 10 CARRIED REPORT THAT AUSTRALIA HAS OFFERED 200 ARMY TROOPS TO THE UN FOR DUTY IN CYPRUS.

2. DFA (PIPER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, UN BRANCH) CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY AUG 12 THAT PRESS STORY ESSENTIALLY CORRECT BUT THAT REFINEMENT OF DETAIL DEPENDED ON FAVORABLE UN RESPONSE TO OFFER, WHICH HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. AUSTRALIAN OFFER OF TROOPS (BASICALLY, INFANTRY COMPANY, PLUS SUPPORT ELEMENT) WAS MADE TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL AUG 8. ACTION TO WORK OUT FURTHER DETAILS AWAITS RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL.

3. PRESS REPORT STATED THAT IF OFFER ACCEPTED, AUSTRALIA WOULD PULL OUT ITS CURRENT 35-MAN POLICE CONTINGENT. PIPER COMMENTED THAT THIS IS ONLY A POSSIBILITY AND THAT NO RPT NO DECISION MADE. WITHDRAWAL OF POLICE WOULD BE BASED ON VIEW THAT NATURE OF AUSTRALIAN
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COMMITMENT HAD CHANGED AND THAT COMMAND AND CONTROL

WOULD BE EASIER IF ALL AUSTRALIAN ELEMENTS WERE OF SAME TYPE. PRESS REPORTS ALSO STATES THAT IF ARMY COMMITMENT ACCEPTED BY UN, AUSTRALIA WOULD END ITS A\$100,000 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP. PIPER SAID THIS WAS NOT A DEFINITE POSITION, THOUGH HE NOTED THAT ARMY FORCE WOULD COST ABOUT A\$2.2 MILLION FIRST YEAR, WHICH IS FAR MORE THAN AUSTRALIA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO UNFICYP IN PAST.

4. PIPER NOTED THAT THERE IS STILL SOME QUESTION ABOUT SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHANGE IN AUSTRALIAN FORCE FROM CIVIL POLICE TO ARMY TROOPS. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS WITH SOVIET REPS IN MOSCOW HAD INDICATED SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT CHANGE, BUT GOA WONDERS IF SOVIETS WILL EXPRESS THIS VIEW AT UN IN NEW YORK. HARROP

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Message Attributes

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